

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

CECIL KOGER,)	
)	Case No. 4:17-CV-02409
Plaintiff,)	
)	Judge Benita Y. Pearson
v.)	
)	AFFIDAVIT OF CECIL KOGER
GARY MOHR, et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

CECIL KOGER, having been first duly sworn according to law, hereby deposes and states of his personal knowledge as follows:

1. I am of legal age and sound mind, capable of making this affidavit, and personally acquainted with the facts herein stated.
2. I am currently an inmate at Richland Correctional Institution ("RCI").
3. Prior to RCI, I was an inmate at Trumbull Correctional Institution ("TCI").
I have been housed in several different Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction ("ODRC") facilities since 2000.
4. I have been a committed member of the Nyahbinghi Rastafarian Order since 2000. My family has practiced Rastafarianism for multiple generations.
5. I have requested several accommodations in the past to allow me to practice Rastafarianism. These include requests to keep my dreadlocks, to have communion with other Rastafarians through "groundings," to fast



and diet according to my religion, and receive Rastafarian literature. True and accurate copies of some of the accommodation requests I submitted to ODRC are attached as Exhibit 1.

6. My branch of Rastafarianism, the Nyahbinghi Rastafarian Order, requires adherents to wear dreadlocks. This is in accordance with the Nazarite vow. Rastafarians believe that this practice is commanded by the Bible: "They shall not make baldness upon their head, neither shall they shave off the corner of their beard, nor make any cutting in their flesh." LEVITICUS 21:5.
7. Rastafarianism requires me to practice a specific diet, called *ital*, which prohibits consuming processed foods.
8. My faith also requires me to fast on particular days throughout the year, and to celebrate religious holidays in worship services called "groundings."
9. I continue to attempt to diet and fast according to my religious beliefs, but ODRC does not facilitate my particular diet or fasting on the days required by Rastafarianism.
10. Despite the lack of accommodation at ODRC facilities, Rastafarianism requires me to find opportunities to eat and fast according to my religious beliefs.
11. I am not a Muslim.

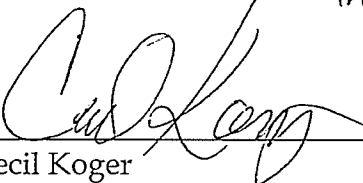
12. Individuals who desire to fast are required to sign an accommodation form – this form is the only way for Rastafarians at TCI to fast in accordance with their own religious beliefs.
13. On April 11, 2018, I submitted an accommodation form to fast during Ramadan. A true and accurate copy is attached as Exhibit 2. On April 26, 2018, I submitted a new accommodation form identifying as Rastafarian. A true and accurate copy is attached as Exhibit 3.
14. I have fasted during Ramadan in the past because it occasionally aligns with the fasting days observed by Rastafarianism. ODRC will not allow me to fast as a Rastafarian, and this is one of the only ways for me to fast at ODRC facilities without being subject to discipline.
15. In August, 2016, I submitted a notarized statement asking why TCI would not let me fast as a Rastafarian and alleging discrimination. A true and accurate copy of this statement is attached as Exhibit 4.
16. During Ramadan, when ODRC will permit Muslim inmates to fast, I often prepare special meals in the ODRC kitchen for both Muslims and Rastafarians.
17. I personally know other Rastafarians in ODRC facilities who diet and fast under the same Muslim accommodations simply because it is their best opportunity to practice according to their religious beliefs.

18. I have told many Muslim inmates and spiritual advisors in ODRC facilities that I am a Rastafarian fasting to exercise my own religious beliefs.
19. If ODRC facilities allowed Rastafarians to receive diet and fasting accommodations, I would not be forced to request exemptions as a Muslim simply so that I may practice my religion more faithfully.
20. In 2014, I was transferred to Trumbull Correctional Institution ("TCI"). In June of 2016, I was informed that TCI would remove my dreadlocks. I attempted to receive an exemption through several levels of appeal and was denied an exemption for my dreadlocks.
21. On September 21, 2016, Deputy Warden Bowen issued me a direct order to cut my dreadlocks.
22. When I informed ODRC that I would not comply with an order to cut my hair because it violates my religious beliefs, Deputy Warden Bowen and Warden Charmaine Bracy told me that I could not receive a religious accommodation for my dreadlocks because Rastafarianism is not recognized by ODRC.
23. As a result of my refusal to cut my hair, I was placed in the segregation unit.
24. I attempted to appeal the decision of the Rule Infraction Board, again asserting my religious beliefs, but my appeal was denied. *See Exhibit 5.*
25. On November 2, 2016, TCI staff arrived at my cell to cut my dreadlocks.

26. According to my Rastafarian beliefs, November 2 is the most sacred day of the year, and it commemorates the coronation of Haile Selassie as Emperor of Ethiopia.
27. When I refused to have my dreadlocks cut, I was covered with oleoresin capsicum spray, and my dreadlocks were shaved off without my consent.
28. Before ODRC officials cut my hair on November 2, 2016, I gave them oral and written notice that I believed cutting my hair would sever my connection to the most high, and would be a desecration of my religious beliefs. *See Exhibit 4*; *See also* video of haircut, which will be filed manually with the Court as *Exhibit 6* to Cecil Koger's Affidavit.
29. The forced cutting of my dreadlocks has emotionally traumatized me, and I feel that TCI took away part of my religious identity.
30. Since the forced cutting, I have continued to grow dreadlocks as an exercise of my Rastafarian beliefs.
31. I fear that ODRC will forcibly cut my dreadlocks in the future.
32. I have been growing my hair naturally with dreadlocks for at least twenty years and have never concealed contraband or weapons in my dreadlocks.
33. ODRC classifies me as a Level 2 security level. I have had my dreadlocks searched many times, during which I was asked to shake my hair out and make it searchable.
34. I have no knowledge of any inmates hiding contraband in their hair.
35. My dreadlocks naturally grow thicker than 1/2 inch.

36. My dreadlocks will only grow thinner than 1/2 inch through manipulation, which is prohibited by Rastafarianism.
37. I know of other Rastafarians in ODRC facilities who currently have dreadlocks that are thicker than 1/2 inch.
38. I am not opposed to ODRC facilities searching my dreadlocks by any other reasonable means other than cutting my dreadlocks, including with metal detectors, x-rays, or other imaging technology, or by manual searching ODRC staff members with additional safety equipment and/or personnel.

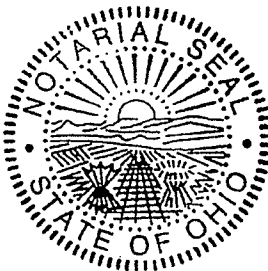
FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT


Cecil Koger


37. It would be a desecration to hide or place anything inside of Rastafarian locks.

OK
(X)

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, this 2 day of ^{April} ~~March~~, 2019.



ANDREW GERODIM
Attorney At Law
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF OHIO
My Commission Expires
No Expiration Date
Section 147.03 O.R.C.


NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires: 4/2/2019

Ohio

**Department of
Rehabilitation & Correction**

John R. Kasich, Governor
Gary C. Mohr, Director

**Decision of the Religious Services Administrator
Request for Accommodation
Of Religious Practice**

Cecil Kroger #384-698
Trumbull Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 901
Leavittsburg, OH 44030

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Rastafarian

You have requested accommodation of the following practice based upon the reason indicated:

Request to have hair exemption for religious reasons.

Your request states a:

- ☐ Religious Issue
☒ Non-Religious Issue

It is the decision of the Religious Services Administrator that the request for Accommodation of Religious Practice should be:

- ☐ Approved
☒ Not Approved

Reason:

Your request, Cecil Kroger #384-698, for hair exemption is disapproved. This is not a religious issue. It is subject to DRC 65-GRM-01.

Signature: Michael Davis Date: November 30, 2016

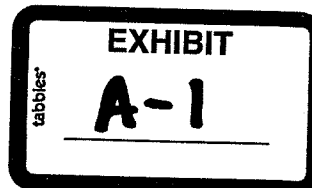
Michael Davis, Ph. D.

Religious Services Administrator

Tracking Process

- ☐ Chaplains reviews request and makes recommendation
 - ☐ Request is reviewed by Chaplain, DWSS, and DWO/Designee.
 - ☐ Accommodation is forwarded to Warden for Warden's response.
 - ☐ Warden's decision is forward back to inmate and Chaplain's office is copied.
 - ☐ Inmate receives decision and may appeal if desired.
 - ☐ Warden forwards appeal to OOP for Religious Services Administrator decision.
 - ☐ Religious Services Administrator reviews in consultation with Legal, Chief Inspector, and STG as needed.
 - ☐ The final decision is made by the Religious Services Administrator (copy of final decision is filed).
 - ☐ The decision is returned to the Institutional Chaplain, the DWSS, and Warden is copied and inmate is notified
- C: Warden, Chaplain, Inmate's On Base File and Inmate

Operation Support Center - Religious Services • 770 W. Broad Street • Columbus, Ohio 43222
www.drc.ohio.gov



Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Institution Religious Accommodation Review Committee

Response To Request For Religious Accommodation

Offender Name: KOGER, CECIL	Number: 384698
Current Religious Affiliation: Rastafarian	RE: DRC4326 Dated: 10/28/2016

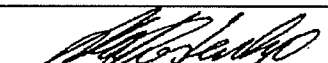
Chaplain Recommendation:

Offender **KOGER, CECIL**, offender number **384698** is listed in DOTS as a Rastafarian since 08/04/2005. His request is to grow his hair. The official statement issued by the Religious Service Administrator: "The growing of hair is not a granted religious accommodation. This issue is addressed by DRC policy 65-GRM-01 and AR 5120-9-25-1". Referring to RSA at Operations Support Center.

RECEIVED

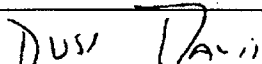
NOV 28 2016

Religious Services

Chaplain's Signature: 	Date: 11/03/2016
---	-------------------------

Accommodation Review Committee Response:

Do not recommend accommodation based on policy 65-GRM-01.

Committee Chairperson Signature: 	Date: 11-7-16
--	----------------------

Warden's Decision: ☐ Approved ☐ Disapproved ☒ Refer to Reg. Religious Services Admin.

Comment *Violation of policy 65-GRM-01 with AR 5120-9-25-1*
Religious accommodation is not granted for hair growth. Policy 65-GRM-01 issue addressed by

Signature: 	Date: 11-08-16 11/20/16
--	---------------------------------------

DRC4327 E (Rev. 03/09)

Distribution: Warden, Chaplain, Offender, Religious Services Administrator, On Base File

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Request For Religious Accommodation

To: Chaplain's Office

From:

Offender Name: Cecil KOGIER	Number: 384 -CFCG
Institution: T.C.I	Date: 10-28-16

1. What is the religion to which you belong?

RASTAFARI = THE ORDER OF NYABINGI

2. What is the specific accommodation that you are requesting?

Exemption From Grooming Policy
 To grow hair naturally allowing hair to take its natural
 course in locks.

3. What is the basis for your requested religious accommodation (How is your request supported by the writings or traditions of your religion)?

RASTAFARI - Livitry Re Written by
 Ras Anbessa Ebanks. The Kebra Negast all MANSIONS
 OF RASTAFARI grow their hair naturally for locks to form
 it is mandate for the TRUE RASTA. Its found in the
 Bible as well as the other books mentioned above.

4. Who are the religious leaders who can verify this request (Please give address and phone numbers, if available)?

RASTAFARI Elders, Ras Iddon's From Lion of Suddat
 Society, church of the NAZARENE.
 Ras Jacob Marley Ras. Sully "Bebbi Sullivan" RASTAFARI UNIVERSAL ORDER
 Prison Ministries "R.U.O."
 The Church of Haili Selassie I 29 Oxford St 470 "A" Gates Avenue
 Ba Beta Kristyan P.O. Box 334 Brooklyn, NY 11216
 Kingston Jamaica

Offender's Signature: Cecil Kogier	Date: 10-28-16
------------------------------------	----------------

This form is for approval of religious practices or beliefs not currently approved by the ODRC.

DRC4326 (Rev 03/09)

Distribution: Religious Services Administrator, On Base file

Ohio | Department of
Rehabilitation & Correction

John R. Kasich, Governor
Gary C. Mohr, Director

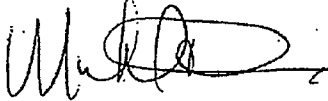
November 30, 2016.

Cecil Kroger #384-698
Trumbull Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 901
Leavittsburg, OH 44030

Dear Mr. Kroger,

In response to your Offender's Appeal of Decision Regarding Religious Accommodation, the documentation submitted does not include the DRC 4327 Response to Request for Religious Accommodation. Therefore, I am returning your DRC form 4326 Request for Religious Accommodation for complete processing through the institution Chaplain.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Davis
Religious Services Administrator

Operation Support Center - Religious Services - 770 W. Broad Street - Columbus, Ohio 43222
www.drc.ohio.gov

RECEIVED

JUL 25 2013

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Religious Services

Request To Change Religious Affiliation**To: Chaplain's Office****From:**

Inmate Name: <u>Cecil Kuper</u>	Number: <u># 384-028</u>
Institution:	Date: <u>7-8-13</u>

Present Religious Affiliation: <u>Muslim</u> Other
The Religious Affiliation To Which You Desire To Change To: <u>Muslim</u>
Reason For Requesting This Change: <u>Ramadan</u>

Inmate's Signature: <u>Cecil Kuper</u>	Date: <u>7-8-13</u>
--	---------------------

Chaplain ☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved

Chaplain's Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>7-8-2013</u>
--	-----------------------

Inmates must wait 12 months before application to change affiliation again

DRC4353 (Rev 12/05)



Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Religious Services
770 West Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43222

Ted Strickland, Governor

www.drc.ohio.gov

Ernie L. Moore, Director

Decision of the Religious Services Administrator

Request for Accommodation Of Religious Practice

Koger, Cecil #384-698
Toledo Correctional Institution
2001 East Central Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43608

RELIGIOUS Rastafarian

You have requested accommodation of the following practice based upon the reason indicated

Request to have kosher meals for religious reasons

Your request states a

- ☒ Religious Issue
☐ Non-Religious Issue

It is the decision of the Religious Services Administrator that the request for Accommodation of Religious Practice should be

- ☐ Approved
☒ Not Approved

Signature: 
Gary Sims, Sr.
Religious Services Administrator

Date March 4, 2010

Tracking Process

- ☐ Chaplains reviews request and makes recommendation
- ☐ Request is reviewed by Chaplain, DWSS, and DWO/Designee
- ☐ Accommodation is forwarded to Warden for Warden's response
- ☐ Warden's decision is forward back to inmate and Chaplain's office is copied
- ☐ Inmate receives decision and may appeal if desired
- ☐ Warden forwards appeal to OOP for Religious Services Administrator decision
- ☐ Religious Services Administrator reviews in consultation with Legal Chief Inspector, STG as needed
- ☐ The final decision is made by the Religious Services Administrator (copy of final decision is filed)
- ☐ The decision is returned to the Institutional Chaplain the DWSS, and Warden is copied and inmate is notified

C Warden Chaplain Inmate's On Base File and Inmate

RSA Date Received: <u>3</u> / <u>3</u> / 2010		I/M #. <u>384-698</u>	
Institution: ACI / BECI / CCI / CMC / CRC / DCI / MEPRC / FPRC / GCI / HCF / LAECI / LECI / LOCI / LORCI / MACI / MANCI / MCI / NCCI / NCCTF / NCI / NEPRC / OCF / ORW / OSP - CAMP / PCI / RCI / RICI / SCI / SOCF / TCI - CAMP / TOCI / WCI			
Religion: Apostolic Pentecostal / Asatru / Arakhtuan / Ausarian / Neterian / Black Hebrew / Israelite / Baptist / Buddhist / Catholic / Christian / Christian Identity / Christian Nazarite / Christian Separatist / Church of God / NGE / Hebrew Israelite / Hebrew Nazarite / Jewish / Islamic / Messianic Jew / Muslim / Nation of Islam / Native American / Orthodox Judaism / Orthodox-Islam / Philadelphia Church of God / Protestant / Rastafarian / Sabbatarian / Satanism / Salvation Army / Santeria / Shi'a Muslim / Wiccan /			
OTHER:			
Request: Hair / Beard / Koshier Meal / Access to religious material / Alter Cloth / Baptism / Blended teas / Cell separation / Congregate services / Diet Card / Dreadlocks / Halal meals / Head Covering / Holy Days / Incense / Medicine bag / Meditation cushion / Oils / Outside Vender / Pendant / Prayer / Prayer Beads / Prayer Rug / Prayer Shawl / Services in Chapel / Vegan Diet / Vegetarian Diet / Tam / Work proscription / Change of Religion Request / NEEDS FORM 4326, 4327, 4442			
OTHER:			
Action:		Approved	Disapproved
Comments:			
NEEDS FORM 4326, 4327, 4442		Decision Date: / / 2010	

DRC000218

MAR 03 2010

Mr. G. Simms

I would like to know why
my dietary needs were denied as
my religious accommodation. I am aware
of several ~~inst's~~ ^{inst's} in O.D.R.C. who accommodate
Rastafari Ital Food why is T.O.C.I.
different from any other close inst.? I have verification for my request
why was I denied? I would also
like a copied or original appeal
I filed to your office. Can you explain
as precisely as you are able, about the reasons
to my dietary needs as Rastafari not being
accommodated please.

Thank you for your
time

Cecil Koger #384698

David Koger
RHS 1/1/10



Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

JAN 21 2010

Toledo Correctional Institution
2001 East Central Avenue
Toledo, OH 43608

Ted Strickland, Governor

www.drc.ohio.gov

Terry Collins, Director

Decision of the Warden

Request for Accommodation
Of Religious Practice

NAME: Cecil Koger
NUMBER: A384-698
INSTITUTION: ToCI
RELIGION: Rastafarian

You have requested accommodation of the following practice based upon the reason indicated:

Request to receive Kosher Meals.
Your request states a:

Religious Issue
☒ Non-Religious Issue

It is the decision of the Warden that the request for Accommodation of Religious Practice should be:

Approved
☒ Not Approved

Reason: Mr. Koger (A384-698) your request to receive Kosher meals has not been approved. Keeping Kosher is not a vegetarian diet and is provided to those keeping an orthodox Jewish tradition. A vegetarian alternative is provided at each meal upon the request of any individual.

Signature: Robert Welch

Robert Welch, Warden

Date: 1/11/10

cc. Warden, Deputy Wardens, Chaplain, Major, Unit File, etc.

RSA

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Institution Religious Accommodation Review Committee

Response To Request For Religious Accommodation

Offender Name Cecil Koger	Number A-384698
Current Religious Affiliation RASTAFARIAN	RE DRC4326 Dated: 12/16/2009

Chaplain Recommendation:

NOT RECOMMENDED

THE DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION HAS NOT SET UP ANY SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THOSE OF THE RASTAFARIAN RELIGIOUS GROUP

Chaplain's Signature <i>Chaplain Frank Vlock</i>	Date 12/20/09
---	------------------

Accommodation Review Committee Response:

Committee Chairperson's Signature <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 12/31/09
---	------------------

Warden's Decision: ☐ Approved ☒ Disapproved ☐ Refer to Reg. Religious Services Admin.

Comment

SEE Above comments

Signature <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 1/4/10
---------------------------------	----------------

DRC4327 E (Rev 03/09) Distribution Warden, Chaplain, Offender, Religious Services Administrator, On Base File

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Request For Religious Accommodation

To: Chaplain's Office

From:

Offender Name	RAS. CECIL KOGOR	Number	# 384-628
Institution	T.O. C.I.	Date	12-16-89

1 What is the religion to which you belong?

Rastafari the Nyabingi Order!

2 What is the specific accommodation that you are requesting? "Kosher meals"

non beef non pork non soy it contains MSG.
monosodium Glutamate as well as other ~~stuff~~ food served
in the kitchen containing season enhancer not natural G21,
G22

3 What is the basis for your requested religious accommodation (How is your request supported by the writings or traditions of your religion)?

The Practicing Rastafari
LIVES every day on the basis of his Rastafarian beliefs
There is ten and two of these Revs around what Rastafarian
puts into his body. This is called Ital. It is found in the
Kebra Negest, Fetha Negest, the Livity, the Bible and
Nyabingi teachings.

4 Who are the religious leaders who can verify this request (Please give address and phone numbers, if available)?

Rastafarian Universal Order
P.O. Box 662
Black Mountain N.C. 28711
Office 828-669-4118 RAS Miles Jacob Marley
Fax 828-669-0932 RAS Bobby Sullivan

Offender's Signature	Cecil Kogor	Date
----------------------	-------------	------

This form is for approval of religious practices or beliefs not currently approved by the ODRC.



Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Religious Services
770 West Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43222

Ted Stuckland, Governor

www.drc.ohio.gov

Ernie L. Moore, Director

Decision of the Religious Services Administrator

Request for Accommodation Of Religious Practice

Koger, Cecil #384-698
Toledo Correctional Institution
2001 East Central Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43608

RELIGIOUS Rastafarian

You have requested accommodation of the following practice based upon the reason indicated

Request to have kosher meals for religious reasons

Your request states a

- ☒ Religious Issue
☐ Non-Religious Issue

It is the decision of the Religious Services Administrator that the request for Accommodation of Religious Practice should be

- ☐ Approved
☒ Not Approved

Signature 
Gary Sims, Sr.
Religious Services Administrator

Date February 11, 2010

Tracking Process

- ☐ Chaplains reviews request and makes recommendation
- ☐ Request is reviewed by Chaplain, DWSS, and DWO/Designee
- ☐ Accommodation is forwarded to Warden for Warden's response
- ☐ Warden's decision is forward back to inmate and Chaplain's office is copied
- ☐ Inmate receives decision and may appeal if desired
- ☐ Warden forwards appeal to OOP for Religious Services Administrator decision
- ☐ Religious Services Administrator reviews in consultation with Legal, Chief Inspector, STG as needed
- ☐ The final decision is made by the Religious Services Administrator (copy of final decision is filed)
- ☐ The decision is returned to the Institutional Chaplain, the DWSS, and Warden is copied and inmate is notified

C Warden, Chaplain, Inmate's On Base File and Inmate

RSA Date Received: <u>2 / 3 / 2010</u> IM #: <u>384-698</u>	
Institution: ACI / BECI / CCI / CMC / CRC / DCI / MEPRC / FPRC / GCI / HCF / LAECI / LECI / LOCI / LORCI / MACI / MANCI / MCI / NCCI / NCCTF / NCI / NEPRC / OCF / ORW / OSP - CAMP / PCI / RCI / RICI / SCI / SOCF / TCI - CAMP / TOCI / WCI	
Religion: Apostolic Pentecostal / Asatru / Arakhtutian_Ausarian_Neterian / Black Hebrew / Israelite / Baptist / Buddhist / Catholic / Christian / Christian Identity / Christian Nazarite / Christian Separatist / Church of God / Five Percenters / Hebrew Israelite / Hebrew Nazarite / Jewish / Islamic / Messianic Jew / Muslim / Native American / Orthodox Judaism / Orthodox-Islam / Philadelphia Church of God / Protestant / Rastafarian / Sabbatarian / Satanism / Salvation Army / Santeria / Shi'a Muslim / Wiccan /	
OTHER	
Request: Hair / Beard / Kosher Meal / Access to religious material / Alter Cloth / Baptism / Blended teas / Cell separation / Congregate services / Diet Card / Dreadlocks / Halal meals / Head Covering / Holy Days / Incense / Medicine bag / Meditation cushion / Oils / Outside Vender / Pendant / Prayer / Prayer Beads / Prayer Rug / Prayer Shawl / Services in Chapel / Vegan Diet / Vegetarian Diet / Tam / Work proscriptioin / Change of Religion Request / NEEDS FORM 4326, 4327, 4442	
OTHER	
Action:	Approved
Comments:	<i>Kosher Meal as a substitute to meals</i> Disapproved
NEEDS FORM 4326, 4327, 4442	Decision Date: / / 2010

OP - Religious Services - 5/4/2010

DRC000224

FEB 03 2010

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Religious Services DepartmentOffender's Appeal of Decision
Regarding Religious AccommodationTO Religious Services Administrator
770 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43222

Name <u>Wesley Cecil Koger</u>	Number <u>384 028</u>
Institution <u>T.O.C.I.</u>	Religious Affiliation <u>Rastafari</u>
	Date of Appeal <u>1-14-10</u>

Your appeal regarding request for religious accommodation is based on *Ital Food*

There has clearly been a lack of knowledge concerning Rastafari food. I have submitted verification of dietary needs of Rastafari to the Mr. Bloch Chaplain from Rastafari elders fax, office and addresses where given to Mr. Bloch to do more delving into the facts. About Rastafari he still has not contacted them or engaged in any form of verification as to the mandates of adherents to the specific beliefs. A policy for Rastafari in O.D.R.C. has to start somewhere; if the chaplain does not assist us how is there ever going to be requirements for those of the Rastafari religious group. I have supply the paperwork for the practicing Rastafari to ~~Mr. Bloch~~ Mr. Bloch he knows and is aware of the special dietary need and has been since I arrived in this inst. The veggie meals do not meet the proper dietary needs of Rastafari they are prepare next to regular meals with the same tools, not by a practicing Rastafari and also contains all the same flavor enhancers or seasoning salt as regular meal as well as all veggie supplements in T.O.C.I contain soy contents. The paperwork the chaplain received from Elders of Rastafari clearly states when provisions are not met kosher food are more acceptable then none at all. And it has been made clear to the Chaplain that Rastafari are the offspring of Orthodox Jews state claim to Falasha of Ethiopia the original African Jew of Ethiopia orthodox church which have if not all, most of the same traditions.

With this appeal form, you must include
DRC Form 4326 Request for Religious Accommodation, and
DRC Form 4327 Response to Request for Religious Accommodation

Offender's Signature <u>[Signature]</u>	Date <u>1-14-10</u>
--	------------------------

DRC4442 (03/09)

Distribution Warden, Chaplain, Offender, On Base File

Please send Copies back for Further legal actions Thank You.

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Institution Religious Accommodation Review Committee

Response To Request For Religious Accommodation

Offender Name Cecil Koger	Number A-384698
Current Religious Affiliation RASTAFARIAN	RE: DRC4326 Dated, 12/16/2009

Chaplain Recommendation:

NOT RECOMMENDED

THE DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION HAS NOT SET UP ANY SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THOSE OF THE RASTAFARIAN RELIGIOUS GROUP

Chaplain's Signature <i>Chaplain Frank Vlach</i>	Date 12/20/09
---	------------------

Accommodation Review Committee Response:

Committee Chairperson's Signature <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 12/31/09
---	------------------

Warden's Decision: ☐ Approved ☒ Disapproved ☐ Refer to Reg. Religious Services Admin
Comment

SEE Above comments

Signature <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 1/4/10
---------------------------------	----------------

DRC4327 E (Rev 03/09) Distribution Warden, Chaplain, Offender, Religious Services Administrator, On Base File

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Request For Religious Accommodation

To: Chaplain's Office

From:

Offender Name	RAS. CECIL KOSER	Number	#384-6A8
Institution	T.O. C.I.	Date	12-11-89

1 What is the religion to which you belong?

RASTAFARI the Nyabingi Order!

2 What is the specific accommodation that you are requesting?

"Kosher meals"
 non beef non pork non soy it contains MSG
 monosodium glutamate as well as other ~~food~~ food served
 in the kitchen containing season enhancer not natural G21,
 G22

3 What is the basis for your requested religious accommodation (How is your request supported by the writings or traditions of your religion)?

THE PRACTICING RASTAFARI
 LIVES every day on the basis of his HUMANOT-beliefs
 There is ten and two of these REVOLVED around what RASTAFARI
 puts into his body. This is called Ital. It is found in the
 Kebra Negest, Fetha Negest, the Livate, the Bible and
 Nyabingi teachings.

4 Who are the religious leaders who can verify this request (Please give address and phone numbers, if available)?

Rastafarian Universal Order
 P.O. Box 662
 Black Mountain N.C. 28711
 Office 828-669-4918 RAS Miles Jacob Manley
 Fax 828-669-0932 RAS Bobby Sullivan

Offender's Signature	Cecil Koser	Date
----------------------	-------------	------

This form is for approval of religious practices or beliefs not currently approved by the ODRC.

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Request For Religious Accommodation

To: Chaplain's Office

From:

Inmate Name	CECIL ROGER	Number	384-698
Institution	MANSFIELD CORRECTIONAL INST.	Date	11-15-06

- 1 What is the religion to which you belong? RASTAFARI

- 2 What is the specific accommodation that you are requesting?
THE WEARING OF TAMS AND THE GROWING OF OUR DREADS AND BEARDS

- 3 What is the basis for your requested religious accommodation (How is your request support by the writings or traditions of your religion)? I'm writings in the bible and KABAANAAST about OUR DREADS has holding a lot of meaning towards OUR RELIGION

- 4 Who are the religious leaders who can verify this request (Please give address and phone numbers, if available)
EELKA DREED at the Nyabingi TATERMACKLE
414 836-5506.

Inmate's Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date	11-15-06
--------------------	--------------------	------	----------

This form is for approval of religious practices or beliefs not currently approved by the ODRC

DRC4326 (Rev 06/06)

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Institution Religious Accommodation Review Committee

Response To Request For Religious Accommodation

Inmate Name <i>CECIL KOGER</i>	Number <i>A384-698</i>
Current Religious Affiliation <i>RASTAFARIAN</i>	RE DRC4326 Dated <i>11-15-2006</i>

Chaplain Recommendation:

Rastafarians have no formal liturgical rites, sacraments, or ordinances. However, the growing of dreadlocks is considered the sign of commitment to the Rastafarian lifestyle and faith. Therefore, I recommend the temporary ban on hair length for religious purposes be applied to this accommodation request, and that length of hair and beard be determined by and through the office of the Religious Services Administrator for the ODRC. I also recommend that the wearing of tams be commensurate with other faith groups whose religious practice compels one to wear a covering for the head.

Chaplain's Signature <i>Chaplain [Signature]</i>	Date <i>11/15/2006</i>
---	---------------------------

Security Response:

Please decline request

Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <i>12-8-06</i>
----------------------------------	------------------------

Warden's Decision: ☐ Approved ☒ Disapproved

Signature <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <i>12/8/06</i>
---------------------------------	------------------------

Tracking Process

- Security Issue*
- ☒ Chaplain reviews request and makes recommendation
 - ☒ Request is reviewed by Chaplain, DWSS, and DWO/Designee
 - ☒ Accommodation is forwarded to Warden for Warden's response
 - ☒ Warden's decision is forwarded back to inmate, the Religious Services Administrator (RSA) is copied (for the OOP files), and Chaplain's office is copied
 - ☐ Inmate receives decision and may appeal if desired
 - ☐ Warden forwards appeal to OOP for Religious Services Administrator decision
 - ☐ Religious Services Administrator reviews in consultation with Legal, Chief Inspector, STG as needed
 - ☐ The final decision is made by the Religious Services Administrator (copy of final decision is filed), utilizing form DRC4415, "Decision of the Religious Services Administrator on Appeal of Religious Accommodation"
 - ☐ The decision is returned to the Institutional Chaplain, the DWSS, and Warden is copied and inmate is notified by the Chaplain

DRC4327 (Rev 06/06)



Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

1050 Freeway Drive North
Columbus, OH 43229

Ted Strickland, Governor

www.drc.state.oh.us

Terry Collins, Director

Decision of the Religious Services Administrator

Request for Accommodation Of Religious Practice

NAME: Cecil Koyber
NUMBER 384-698
INSTITUTION MANCI
RELIGIOUS Rastafarian

You have requested accommodation of the following practice based upon the reason indicated

Request to grow locks, and read meditation of text Galatians for religious reasons
Your request states a

☒ Religious Issue
☐ Non-Religious Issue

It is the decision of the Religious Services Administrator that the request for Accommodation of Religious Practice should be

☒ Approved
☐ Not Approved

Reason.

Mr Koyber (384-698) your request to grow dreadlocks has been denied because according to DRC policy dreadlocks possess a security issue

In regards to the reading of meditation materials this material has to be approved by the institution screening committee

In regards the wearing of tams This is not an approved item

Signature [Signature]
Gary Sims, Sr
Religious Services Administrator

Date 1-9-07

Tracking Process

- ☐ Chaplains reviews request and makes recommendation
- ☐ Request is reviewed by Chaplain, DWSS, and DWO/Designee
- ☐ Accommodation is forwarded to Warden for Warden's response
- ☐ Warden's decision is forward back to inmate and Chaplain's office is copied
- ☐ Inmate receives decision and may appeal if desired
- ☐ Warden forwards appeal to OOP for Religious Services Administrator decision.
- ☐ Religious Services Administrator reviews in consultation with Legal, Chief Inspector, STG as needed
- ☐ The final decision is made by the Religious Services Administrator (copy of final decision is filed)
- ☐ The decision is returned to the Institutional Chaplain, the DWSS, and Warden is copied and inmate is notified

C Warden, Chaplain, Case manager, Inmate's File, and Inmate's Master File

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Request For Religious Accommodation

To: Chaplain's Office

From:

Inmate Name	MR Cecil Koger	Number	394-698
Institution	Man C.I.	Date	

1 What is the religion to which you belong? RASTAFARI

Received

SEP 13 2006

Regional Director's Office
ODRC

2 What is the specific accommodation that you are requesting? I would like to BE ABLE to go INTO the PRACTICE OF RASTAFARI and not just the the SURFACE but the SPIRITUAL THE LOOKING OF MY HAIR THE READING OF MEDITATION and texts. THE WEARING OF OUR TAMS

3 What is the basis for your requested religious accommodation (How is your request support by the writings or traditions of your religion)? IN THE bible NUMBERS 6 the Kebra NEGAST AND MANY MORE.

4 Who are the religious leaders who can verify this request (Please give address and phone numbers, if available) An Elder by the NAME OF EKA DUBA HE CAN BE CONTACTED AT 419-536-5506

Inmate's Signature	Cecil Koger	Date	8-23-06
--------------------	-------------	------	---------

This form is for approval of religious practices or beliefs not currently approved by the ODRC.

DRC4326 (Rev 06/06)

Rev. Gary Sims

I'm writing this letter along with the accommodation form to assist you in understanding exactly what it is.

I am asking of you. Specifically the Tams and hair would coincide with each other and the policy here

in Mansfield. Our hair can be kept neat never covering the ears and can be subjected to searches at any time.

The tams would also ~~keep~~ ^{KEEP} the hair presentable cover our hair in the diner area and never over our

ears. The locks on our head are an essential part of Ras Tafari. I must keep my lock as an offering

to be ~~given~~ given to the most high on judgement day without my locks I have no offering and with

out that I am not look upon as who I am. It states this in the bible in Numbers 6: The law of the Nazirite

These can be accommodated easy because they take care of one another and the policy here in Mansfield

the Tam cover our hair to keep it in the proper lines with the appearance of general population

and my hair it self can be pulled back ~~over~~ behind my ears at all time and ~~kept~~ ^{kept} presentable.

The religious ~~books~~ ^{locks} along with the Tams are being held until word from you. My family is ~~be eager~~

to see me on this path so they are waiting to know if I will receive any of the locks they can have sent.

Thanks for your time (Iul Korm)

RECEIVED

MAY 07 2018

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Request To Change Religious Affiliation
Religious Services

To: Chaplain's Office

From: CECIL KOGER

Inmate Name: CECIL KOGER	Number: 384-628
Institution: LAE. C. I.	Date: 4-11-18
Present Religious Affiliation: Nyahbingi	
The Religious Affiliation To Which You Desire To Change To: Islam	
Reason For Requesting This Change: RAMADAN: I HAVE BEEN PARTICIPATING FOR THE LAST SIXTEEN YEARS	
Inmate's Signature: [Signature]	Date: 4-11-18

Chaplain ☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved

Chaplain's Signature: [Signature]	Date: 04/13/18
-----------------------------------	----------------



Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Request For Religious Accommodation

To: Chaplain's Office

From: CECIL KOGAR

Offender Name: CECIL KOGAR	Number: 384-698
Institution: R.I.C.I.	Date: 4-26-18

1. What is the religion to which you belong?

Nyabingihi RASTAFARI

2. What is the specific accommodation that you are requesting?

FOR RASTAFARI Mandates to be recognized and accommodated:
 growing of natural locks I AM DIA (organic, food vegetarian,
 (wearing of Dreads) no soy)
 TAM'S / KUFUS (Religious Head wear) OBSERVANCE / Reading material /
 Fasts days / Holidays

3. What is the basis for your requested religious accommodation (How is your request supported by the writings or traditions of your religion)?

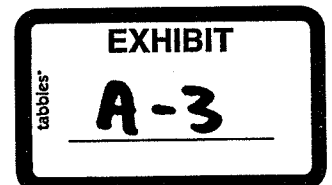
THE KEBA NAJAST, FETHA NAJAST
 THE bible "Number 6 Law of NAZARITE" RASTAFARI TENNANTS
 and mandates " RASTAFARI liberty " written by Ras Ambessa Elank

4. Who are the religious leaders who can verify this request (Please give address and phone numbers, if available)?

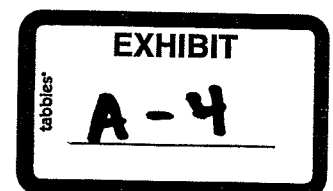
Ras Iadonis - Lion of Judah Society
 Ras Christopher Lion Tree - RASTAFARI Universal ORDER
 Sister Imani Nyah, The Association of RASTAFARIAN Theologians

Offender's Signature: <i>Cecil Kogar</i> 384-698	Date: 4-26-18
--	---------------

This form is for approval of religious practices or beliefs not currently approved by the ODRC.



I am writing your office to inform you of the current mis-information that is supposedly stemming from central office. This incorrectness is surrounding Rastafari, not being accommodated on hair as well as any other religious mandates to. The process I have been Rastafari even before I entered Ohio's system in 1998. I have been force out and accommodated while being held in the O.D.R.C., how is it possible that I am still being threatened by the same policy I have been exempted from? In 2008 Mr. Timothy Johnson filed a civil complaint which led to the granting of length and growth Mr. Johnson was Rastafari, how do you explain a directive from your office to T.C.I. to cut all Rastafari hair and Rastafari are not exempt ~~to~~ religiously? How do you clarify a meritless security concern that is cited as the reason why Rastafis are to be desecrated? I have been transported from Mansfield-Toledo-Allen-Trumbull, justifiably how I am today, with natural locks, my Nkai has been undisturbed unshaven throughout each...



... TRANSFER. I HAVE SUCCESSFULLY BEEN THROUGH all security protocol, plenty of times including VISITATIONS MY HAIR HAS BEEN SEARCHED AND CLEARED by CORRECTION OFFICER AT FIVE INSTITUTIONS OF C.D.R.C. THESE ISSUES ARE NOT THE IGNITION BEHIND THESE RESURFACING SECURITY CONCERNS ONLY WHEN THERE IS A LARGE AMOUNTS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES THAT START LETTING THEIR NATI GROW ITS NATURAL COURSE. IS WHEN LOCKS BECOME AN ISSUE. THESE INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE BREAKING THE STANDARD OF EUROPEAN BEAUTY AND GRASPING THE IDEAL OF AN MORE NATURAL COMFORTABLE ORIGINAL STATE OF APPEARANCE HAS TO BE CONFORMED RESTRAINT AND SHAVEN BECAUSE OF THERE BELIEFS. WHY IS THERE NO POLICY CONCERNING RASTAFARI IN T.C.I.? WHY ARE THE RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION FORMS NEVER RESPONDED TO? WHILE RASTAFARI IS INCLUDED AS ONE THE FAITH GROUPS IN T.C.I. WHY DOES A RASTA LIKE MY SELF NOT ABLE TO OBSERVE OR FAST, I HAVE TO FAST WITH THE MUSLIMS..

... during Ramadan and observe in church on Sundays with the Christians, if I need assistance from T.C.I. as to my fasting and observance I have to get it with other religious observances not Rastafari. This is clearly discriminatory in nature and it is caused by T.C.I. staff, enforced by T.C.I. correctional officers.

While you have individuals expressing the need for this acknowledgement of particular faith within T.C.I. the administration as well as chaplain services ignores them, these actions draw the line and establishes T.C.I. as a Rasta free institution it is also obvious that Rasta don't belong because Rastafari do not shave, cut or trim, comb and brush. A change has to start somewhere if all remedies are exhausted in T.C.I. without response or reason what is Rasta's suppose to do, we do not shave cut or trim! Do the O.D.R.C. know what its pushing for individuals like myself to do? Its not accept the things you can not change, its change the things you...

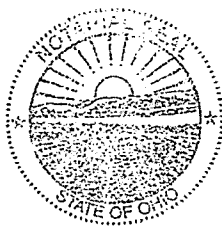
.. CAN NOT ACCEPT, IF THIS CANNOT BE CHANGED
WITH THE PROPER STEPS PROVIDED BY ADMINISTRATIVE
REGULATION OR FEDERAL, UNITED STATES, STATUTES ESTABLISH
FOR THE FIRST AMENDMENT PROTECTION, HOW DO YOU
THINK IT SHALL BE CHANGED? BY THE SAME FORCE
THREATEN BY T. E. I ADMINISTRATION? SOMETHING
OTHER HAS TO BE DONE! AND WHY HAS THERE BEEN
NO OTHER CORRESPONDANCE AS TO THESE ISSUES, AS IF
RASTAFARI IS SUPPOSABLY TO JUST LIE DOWN AND BE
SEPARATED FROM HIS PRECEPTS. RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
PLEASE REVIEW ALL THAT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED CONCERNING
RASTAFARI... AS WELL AS LEGAL CITATIONS.

PLEASE COPY AND SEND
ORIGINAL BACK WITH RESPONSE

Thank You For Reading

Ms Hep Adenya
MR. CECIL ROGER

on this day 24TH, in the month
of August, year 2016. I Cecil KOGER
appeared before MR. MARK S. BURSON, a
NOTARY OF Trumbull county Ohio and
swore to be the creator and
producer of this document without
being forced, threatened, or promised
a reward to do so and provided
proper identification proving he is
who he say he is?



NOTARY

Mark S. Burson
NOTARY PUBLIC/STATEWIDE
JURISDICTION

Cecil Koger
CECIL KOGER

Notice of Disciplinary Appeal

Institution:	TCI	RIB Case Number:	TCI-16-004161
Inmate Name:	KOGER, CECIL	Number:	A384698

Warden:

I appeal the Rule Infraction Board's decision rendered on 10-6-16 that found that Iviolated the following rule(s) 21

TRUMBULL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
OCT 12 2016
RECEIVED WARDEN'S OFFICE

In my opinion the decision of the Rules Infraction Board was incorrect for the following reasons:

(Be brief and specific in stating the basis for your appeal)

- ☐ I did not waive my right to have 24 hours pass between the time I received a copy of the Conduct Report and my appearance before the RIB. I appeared before the RIB _____ hours after receiving the conduct report.
- ☐ I did not waive the presence of the charging official at the RIB hearing. The charging official did not appear.
- ☐ The RIB denied my request for a relevant witness.
- ☒ No evidence was introduced at the hearing to support the RIB's decision.

☒ Other (Be Brief and Specific): O.D.R.C. Grooming Reg. (not AR 5120 9-25)

states that if the individual holds sincere religious belief he shall be exempted from the grooming policy. I HAVE BEEN EXEMPTED SINCE 2008 BECAUSE I AM RASTAFARI AS RECENTLY AS 2013 IN ALLEN CORR. INST. I WAS WRITTEN UP FOR THE SAME 21 RULE VIOLATION AND FOUND NOT GUILTY IN R.I.B. My accommodation stated until hair is deemed a security risk, it shall be left as is. My hair is still not deemed a security risk, no one has accused me of having anything in it, no one has asked to search it! Just because T.C.I. do not have a policy on Rastafari do not mean Rastafari do not exist. This placement and threat of cutting is a violation of Federal Statute: R.L.U.I.P.

Inmate Name:	Number:	Date:
<u>Cecil Koger</u>	<u>331-608</u>	<u>10-6-16</u>

DRC 4027 (Rev. 03/04)

ACA 4236

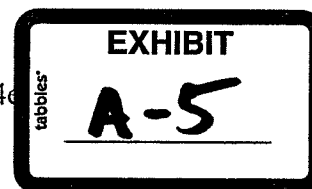


EXHIBIT A-6:
Partially Redacted Video of Force-Cut

Filed Manually with the Clerk